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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 001970

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/20/2015

TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING 07/20/2005.

Classified By: CDA Nabeel Khoury, for reasons 1.5
(B) and (D)

1. (S) BEGIN SUMMARY: The Charge convened two EAC meetings on July 20th, 2005, to discuss security concerns with regard to unrest in Sanaa as a result of the removing of subsidies for basic staples. Vandalism and rioting have broken out throughout the city and host government security forces are on a high state of alert. EAC members noted no specific threats against the American community at this time. A Warden message was issued by the Embassy and a travel warning was issued advising Americans to defer non-essential travel to and inside Yemen. RSO assets continue to monitor the streets of Sanaa for potential security problems over the next several days. The American community remains on a high state of security alert and Embassy employees have been advised to remain home during this weekend. Key offices and personnel represented included: DAO, FPD, RMAS, CONS, OMC, POL/ECON, and RSO. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) Charge reviewed today's unrest in Yemen sparked by the lifting of subsidies resulting in price increases. At 0900 hours Embassy Surveillance Detection Units (SD), Local Guard Force (LGF) members and Embassy employees began reporting the clustering of angry crowds numbering from 500 to 2000 people at most major intersections in Sanaa. At two EAC meetings held at 1400 and 1615 hours EAC members shared witness reports of unrest throughout the country to include: Robberies and the burning of houses, looting and random acts of vandalism to include the ransacking of local stores, the overturning of vehicles and the destruction of Western restaurants, Smoke pillars were visible throughout the city. Roads in the city have been blocked by burning tires, large stones, collapsed telephone poles and dumpsters. Shots have been fired throughout Sanaa. There have been no reports of AMCIT fatalities. However, the National Security Bureau (NSB) is reporting three civilian (3) fatalities and members of the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) have reported the death of six (6) soldiers of the Central Security Force (CSF). Also reported but not confirmed are the deaths of ten (10) people rioting in front of the Presidential Palace. Several attacks on government installations and corporate buildings have been confirmed to include the Yemen Central Bank and the Spacetel cellular phone corporation. Several Embassy vehicles have been attacked by rock throwing crowds and one Embassy fully armored vehicle has been fired on and hit by one round resulting in no injuries.

3. (C) Yemeni security forces have repeated that they have the situation under control. Large military trucks have been seen in Sanaa carrying fifty to seventy five troops each equipped with batons, face shields, and gas guns to dispense tear gas. A crowd of 200 protesters headed in the direction of the AMEmbassy was successfully blocked and redirected by CSF and MOI troops. RSO requested and received additional security assets from the MOI. Host nation forces have bolstered the number of soldiers guarding the Embassy perimeter.

Post Actions

4. (C) All permanent Embassy staff members and TDYers have been accounted for. The Charge has informed the department and the Embassy has issued a Warden message advising the community of the situation. An additional travel advisory will be issued warning Americans to avoid travel to Yemen for the next 72 hours. TDY personnel will be contacted not to come to Post at this time. Embassy staff are currently being escorted home by host nation security forces. Embassy employees are being asked to remain home this weekend and to remain alert for messages over the Embassy emergency message system. RSO is in contact with multiple government and corporate contacts regarding today's events will monitoring Sanaa over the weekend particularly after Fridays prayers for any signs of

continuing unrest.

15. (C) The core EAC will remain in communication over the weekend to assess developments.

Khoury